



CCINSA Bat Club of Sarah Tucker College, Tirunelveli
Juliet Vanitharani*

The Bat Research Team consisting of Dr. Juliet Vanitharani, her four Ph.D. scholars and the bat club members of Sarah Tucker College has an excellent record in terms of Bat Conservation in Tirunelveli.

July 7, 2003 -- A pathetic site of a wounded flying fox *Pteropus giganteus* provoked the team members to make and arrange for a mega bat conservation awareness programme during the Wildlife Week. On October 6, 2003 the team organized a thought provoking, informative oratorical competition. A beautiful, attractive, slogan bearing colourful poster competition was also conducted to celebrate the Wildlife Week with theme of Bat Conservation inside the campus.

October 2, 2003 -- The club members visited the evergreen forest of Vaithamalai the habitat of *L. salimalii* in Curttalam hills. They gave an interview to the press, explained the importance of habitat protection.

October 6, 2003 -- Mr. H. Venu Prasad, IFS the District Forest Officer Tirunelveli circle being a chief guest inaugurated the Poster competition. He with help of Mrs. Chandralekha Johnson, Head of the Zoology Department and Dr. Janet Wilson. Reader in English evaluated the competition.

November 17, 2003 -- The club members organized bat conservation field trips to the roosting sites of *Hipposideros ater* and *Hipposideros speoris*.

December 2003 - March 2004 -- The III year B.Sc. Zoology bat club members did small projects about the feeding behaviour, diversity and scent marking behaviour of bats and submitted the same to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University for the partial fulfillment of their B.Sc. Degree.

March 29, 2004 -- Certificates were awarded to all the participants and a report about the bat club members was presented in the valedictory function of the college union. The team is continuing with several ambitious research programs and working out as part of the crusade to save bats in their natural habitats.



*The bat club members capturing *Hipposideros speoris* with mist to study the closer view of bats, its sent glands and the nature of parasitic infestation of bats with parasites*



*The club members analyzing the threat to the *Pteropus giganteus* roosting sites at Murappanadu (About 12 kms east of Tirunelveli). People hunt bats for trade.*



*The club members organized marvelous bat conservation field trips to the roosting sites of *Hipposideros ater* and *Hipposideros speoris* on 17 November 2003*



*A pathetic site of a wounded flying fox *Pteropus giganteus* provoked the team members to make and arrangement for a mega bat conservation awareness programme among, the college students*

* Sarah Tucker College, Tirunelveli 7, Tamil Nadu





CCINSA Bat Club of Megamix Nature Club, Assam Debojit Phukan*

We officially hosted the CCINSA's Bat Club of Megamix on the 2nd Feb. 2004 at 12 noon. As a keen activist towards Biodiversity of Conservation, we selected a group of right persons having long experiences in environmental activities. It will be good and much meaningful towards the cause of bats and their habitat. "Bat Club of Megamix" is not a kid's Bat Club, but it is a Club of nature enthusiasts ranging from 10 years to 65 years.

The Bat Club of Megamix comprises of seven executive members and four internal advisers. Out of 7 executives 1 is President (Mr. Naren Chutia 60) and 1 is Secretary (Mr. Debojit Phukan 40). Advisers are Dr. Amal Dutta (Ethnobotanist), Mr. Narendranth Duta (Zoologist) Mr. Mriganabh Gogoi (Fine Artist) and Mr. Thanesar Bora (Ethnologist). The office of Bat Club of Megamix is located in the room no. 2 of Megemix Nature Club Building, Assam.

Activities Feb 2004

Date: 02.02.2004 Time: 10.30 AM to 02.45 PM

Place: Conference Hall of Megamix Nature Club Building, Dhakuakhana

Sub: Programme for instruction and Conservation of Bats

Number of Participants: 34 (female-9, male-25) Student of age group between 12 and 20 years.

Trainers: Mr. Debojit Phukan, Organiser, CCINSA Bat Clubs - Assam, Mr. Narendranath Dutta, Lecturer, Dept. of Zoology DHK College & Dr. Amal Dutta, Ethnobotanist, Secy, Megamix Nature Club.

Classroom teachings:

- What is Biodiversity
- Biodiversity and the Bats
- What to do as a young Bat-naturalist.

Outdoor activities:

- Match the pieces of the sheets of find out the hidden mammals
- Feelings of habitat lost (Chairs arranged in circle to create habitats and displayed as the bats flies occasionally.)

Awards of participant:

- Packets of 'Just bat! About bats!' and 'Bats are goooooood animals' are offered.
- Certificate of participation

Activity 2

Date: 19.02.2004 Time: 01.00 PM to 04.20 PM

Place: Forest Range Office Campus, Jonai.

Sub: Programme for introduction and Conservation of Bats.

Number of participants: 19 (Female -2, Male -17) Students of age group between 10 and 16 years.

Inaugural speech: Mr. V.K. Singha. Forest Range Officer, Jonai.

Trainers: Mr. Debojit Phukan, Organiser, CCINSA Bat Club - Assam & Mr. Ram Prasad Upadhyay, State Resource Person, National Green Corps - Assam

(The programme functioned under a large tree by arranging chairs, black-board and tables.)

Classroom teaching:

- Know about our forest (Scientific term of forest is Biodiversity.)
- Biodiversity and Bats.
- What we can do to protect the Bats and other animals and their habitat.

Outdoor activities:

- What is my name among the mammals?
- Biodiversity web-game.

Awards of participants:

- Packets of 'Just Bats about Bats'
- Certificate of participation.

CCINSA Bat Club of Megamix. Dhakuakhana, Assam - Members

- Naren Chutia (Progressive farmer and nature club activist)—President;
- Debojit Phukan (CCINSA Bat Club Organiser, nature club Co-ordinator)—Secretary;
- Narendra Nath Dutta (College Lecturer – Zoologist, nature club vice President)—Adviser;
- Mriganabh Gogoi (College teacher-fine arts, nature club Co-ordinator)—Adviser;
- Dr. Amal Ch. Dutta (College Lecturer-Botanist, nature club Secretary)—Adviser;
- Prodip Bora (High school teacher-science, new member-nature club) — Member
- Utpal Kr. Chutia (High School teacher-Science/science modelling, member)— Member;
- Rakesh Gogoi (College student, drama and nature club activist) — Member;
- Thanesar Bora (High school teacher-Science, science society activist)— Adviser;
- Kantram Chutia (Farmer, nature club activist, social worker)— Well-wisher
- Julie Gogoi (College student, new member- nature club, drama (actress)— Member;
- Sarbeswar baruah (Retd. H.S. teacher, Ex. President-Megamix nature club)—Patron;
- Jatindra Kr. Baruah (Sr. journalist, eminent social worker, nature club activist)— Patron;
- Purnanada Mazindar (Retd. H.S. teacher, President-Megamix nature club)—Patron;
- Nilakhi Borgohain (College student, new nature club member, sports-girl)- — Member



Members of Megamix bat club, Assam

* Secretary, Bat Club of Megamix (CCINSA- Bat Club), Dhakuakhana –787 055, Lakhimpur, Assam. Phone: 03752-254905; E-mail: debojitphukan@indiatimes.com





Participants of the rogramme for Introduction and Conservation of Bats, held on 2 February 2004, Venue: Megamix Nature Club office



Debojit Phukan and Ram Prasad Upadhyay (NGC - Eco Clubs) demonstrating bat status



Mr. Debojit Phukan, Organiser of CCINSA Bat club "Megamix" has seized the hunting devices sold in the markets of Lakhimpur and Dhimaji districts, Assam



Participants of the rogramme for Introduction and Conservation of Bats, held on 19 February 2004, Venue: Jonai Forest Range Office campus



Demonstrations by Debojit Phukan (CCINSA) -- what to as a Bat activist



The modhoc is dead (electrocoated) the infant in her breast is alive. Displaced by a member of Bat Club of Megamix, Assam



Inaugural speech by Mr. V.K. Singh, Forest Officer, Jonai



Death of a modhoc (Indian flying fox) in electric power line. Mr. Sumantajit, a member of Bat Club of Megamix is holding the dead body. Yet, the infant in her breast is alive, died next day



Mr. Ram Prasad Upadhyay, State Resource Person, National Group Corps. , Assam has been employed as activist for Bat Club of megamix to work in Dhimaji District



Seized by Bat Club of Megamix -- Devices made of rubber and leather are used to kill small birds and bats seized from Lakhimpore and Dhimaji district in Assam. Sapplins from: Bihar state





CCINSA Bat Club Nepal, N.A.T.U.R.E., Kathmandu

Geeta Shrestha*

We had first Bat meeting on Monday 11th October. It went well. All the kids were very excited and interested. We registered 22 club members. After telling them about NATURE, CCINSA and Zoo Outreach Organisation, we prepared a concept map. I developed a new style of concept map for this bat club because this club has to go for at least 6 meeting so I made 7 circle like wheel, first middle circle is pre concept and other 6 circles are post concepts and indicated as 1st meeting, 2nd meeting6th meeting. The members had to write in the 1st meeting circle what they learned in the first meeting and same as in second to sixth. In this wheel we can see how the knowledge of members about bat developed gradually through the club activities. I have given the name "Bat Knowledge Wheel" for this circle.



Bat Knowledge Wheel

After the bat knowledge wheel concept map we discussed about club rules and regulation and it was also decided that if any one missed any item of the bag in any meeting that member will get penalty and has to pay Rs.10. and that money will go to the club fund. And if any member became absent in any meeting without any information that will be also charged. And if any member lost CCINSA bag he will be out from the club.

We decided the objectives of the club discussing with club member. After that we did brain storm. In a chart paper we made "Are Bat GOOD or BAD", but the member had very little knowledge about bat and was mostly negative.

So we ask all member to take out their booklet and we read out the book let and also explained it in Nepali. Next we discussed about fruit bats and insectivores bats. And we also did the activity 'Find your Mate' with Raki and Mask. We fixed next meeting on 1st November after Dasain One Nepal magazine has published little news with the head line 'club established for bat conservation'.



Bat Club members with the CCINSA bat club logo

The second Bat Club Meeting was held on 3rd November at the Baudha School Nepal. In the beginning a general discussion was held to refresh mainly; how do bats help people, how do bats gets into trouble, Natural threats, threats from people, hunting and trade were discussed which were already briefed in first meeting

As an interaction some questions were asked to members just to know whether they are paying attention or not, and the result was good. We felt satisfied that the students were alert and interested.

In the last meeting an assignment was given to the members to find bat information from any source as much as they could. Only few students had gone through Internet and got some information. One student had written a poem on bat and he read out his poem, it was short and sweet. The poem is as follows:

**It's Me A Bat
Bhola Sharma, Grade - 9**

Hey, It's Me A Bat
I am not so bad
But you think like that
So that nowadays I am feeling very sad

You please dont look my outer part
Cause I have also a good heart
My face seems very bad
But internally I am a very good bat lad.

Nowadays I am feeling very glad
Cause bat club had started to preserve the bat
You dont harm me you preserve me
I will also help you I assure that.

* Executive Chair person, NATURE, 138, Banijya Marga, Bijuli Bazar, Kathmandu, Nepal. E-mail: rabigeeta@hotmail.com





A student singing a song on bats



A student explaining how do bats help people

After the interaction, we explained about the bat passport and told members to write meeting notes on their passports.

Two activities were done i) Drawing and Story ii) Flapping Bats.

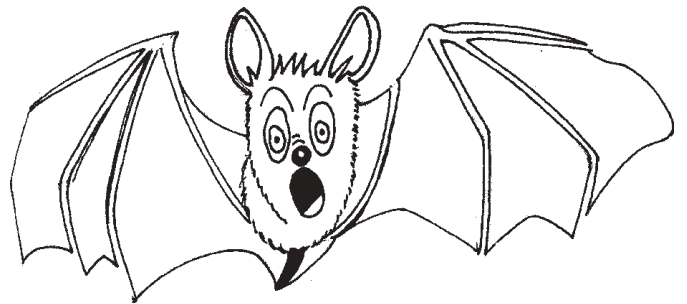
i) Drawing and Story; Themes were written in A4 size paper one theme in one page and it was distributed to the members to draw the picture on the theme. 20 minutes was given for drawing, they only had to draw not color because no one had color pencil. Within these 20 minutes they drew well. All drawings were collected but again it was returned to them back for coloring as an assignment so that they can give more time and make it better. It will be collected in next meeting and will be displayed.

ii) Flapping Bats; Kids enjoyed this activity very much it was performed out side the class on the ground. First explained about the activity and its objective to make them feel that how bats have to face hard time when a hunter comes to get them down from the roost.

Asked to select the partner, a full size newspaper was provided to each pair and drum was played and all bats were dancing with music, when music stopped student fold the paper and

again same process started, it continued for 5 times. While dancing whoever stepped out the paper he/she was out of the game and the last pair was the winner and a poster of Vulture and Tiger Tool kit packet was given to them as the prize.

After all activities, cold drinks were served to the members and Bat knowledge wheel concept map was filled by the members.





CCINSA Bat Club, Shimla Activity Report

Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahoo*

Shimla Bat Club was established in April 2004 under the auspices of the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore to function, as an unit of Conservation Himalayas (NGO). Through this Shimla Bat Club our mission is to create an action-oriented proactive platform specially for the young school students to learn about bats and to do all possible community based efforts for the protection of the wild habitats of bats and their population colonies in the north western Himalayan region.

This initiative to establish the Shimla Bat Club was a follow up action of the bat appreciation programme which the Conservation Himalayas organised for the school children in different parts of Hiamchal Pradesh during 2003-04. As of today the Shimla Bat Club has registered 35 school students (representing two different schools : 5 from Maya Public School, Shimla and 30 from Navlok Adarsh Vidyalaya, Kansara, at Bam in Bilaspur, HP) and 5 seniors as its active members.

On 8th of October 2004 the Shimla Bat Club organised one special outdoor workshop near one Fruit Bat Habitat at Lador. Our Bat Club Student members of the Navadoya Vidyalaya at Kansara, Lador participated in this outdoor Bat camp first time to get familiar with the habitat and the wild Bats at the Camp site about 1 km from their school campus. Altogether it was a unique experience for the students as they performed various activities right under trees on which the fruit bats were roosting, making a lot of wild *chpir chpir chpir.....*sounds. The programme was divided in to three parts: i) **Bat field observation**, ii) **Bat drawing** and iii) **I promist programme** sessions.

In the first part, Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahoo, Chief Coordinator of the Shimla Bat Club, introduced the student members with the wild roosting site of the Fruit Bats and gave a short introduction about the types of bats, their habitat types, bat fruits, how bats help human beings and to the forest ecology, myths about bats, etc. Then the students were divided into five animal groups, each having 8 members. One leader was unanimously chosen in each group to lead the group in the field where the task for each group was to count the live bats from a given location, prepared a habitat sketch map showing the natural habitat conditions of the area- roads, types of trees, water source, human habitation, electric wires, possible threats to the bats, etc. The members of each group were given the ZOO outreach's Bat Club Bag containing special items on bats. Students were told how to use the bat passport and other items in the bag. The groups moved to the locations assigned to them and with all excitement did the job. This type of Bat Workshop in Wild environment, gave a thrill not only to the students, but also to the accompanying teachers and to the local villagers as well. In just 20 minutes all the groups gathered together and the leader of each animal

group presented the report of their observation to the rest of the participants.

The second part involved each animal group with a BAT DRAWING session during which the members of each animal group prepared at least two BAT DRAWINGS looking at the wild bats and their habitat patterns. Drawing sheets , colour pencils, colour sketches were provided free to each group by the Shimla Bat Club. After 15 minutes when each group finished drawings, they again gathered together and one member from each group described contents and the story attached to the Bat drawings before all other participants.

Our main objective in organising this type of outdoor Bat programme in wild is to sensitise the students about the Bats and their PLIGHT in WILD in such a manner that they get emotionally involved with Bats and come out themselves with a mission to protect and preserve the bat Colonies at the local level through their leadership role as a community-level conservationist.

In the third part of this programme, the bat club students returned to their school and joined the whole school in a special *I promise programme* inside the school premises to present to the students and teachers about their field experience in the bat Workshop camp. Besides narrating their experience in the field, the leaders took a pledge that in coming times they will be working at the local level with the help of the Shimla Bat club to educate the local villagers about the bats and also to keep constant watch on various threats to the bats in the local habitats. They also pledged to protect the bat habitat at the cost of their sincere sacrifice for the welfare of this animal and other wildlife as well. Similarly, the whole school participated in a short ***I promise programme*** in which they pledge to protect the natural ecology of the area and to mobilise an bat awareness campaign at the local community level.

The program was well appreciated by the school authority and by the villagers. The special Bat Club materials supplied by the Zoo Outreach Organisation to the Shimla Bat Club were distributed to the students and teachers.

* Chief Coordinator, CCINSA Bat Club, Shimla, a unit of Conservation Himalayas (NGO), Verma Niwas, New Mashobra, Shimla 171007, Tel: 0177-2740316





Photographs taken during various activities of Shimla Bat Club





CCINSA Bat Club, Kovai Branch

B.A. Daniel and D. Deepa*

Background: The Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (CCINSA), on our approach, granted us permission to form a Bat club branch in the City of Coimbatore with an objective to reach children to teach about bats and kindle interest to learn and appreciate bats and to promote conservation. The Kovai Branch is located at 15C, N.V.N. Layout, Sidhapudur PO, Coimbatore 641004 TN India. It was started on 8 August 04, has 24 members and 2 coordinators. We have organised four meetings so far.

Zoo Outreach Organisation provided us all materials required to start the club. That will include: a guidelines book, kit bag (30 sets), coordinator's kit, information in the form of CD, t-shirt for the children members and the coordinators, bat packets and many other items. We give an announcement through handouts to the inmates of the street to identify and select interested children for the Bat club (see model of our invitation). With a support of a local tuition center we succeeded to induct members and to start the club. On the first day of our meeting 14 members of age group 10-14 reported for the meeting. Since first day of the club is more important we did good preparatory work so as children like it. With all these background the bat club was formed on 8th August 2004 inviting children from Sidhapudur, Coimbatore, South India and the meeting held at one of the organizers house.

The first day of the programme started at 3.30 pm. The organiser welcomed all the members and appreciated their interest for choosing to become a member of the club. He gave an introduction about the club and the objectives of the club. They were also explained about the organizations that involved with this club. The sponsors of this club namely: Chester zoo, Zoo Outreach Organisation and CCINSA were introduced to the members. The organizer after a general introduction discussed about different life forms and the most encountered animal by man – the mammal. After



Member preparing name board

highlighting the specialities of mammals he introduced the only flying mammal *ie.*, bats and their importance. Referring to the objectives the coordinator suggested forming a Bat club with the existing members and all agreed to it. They were asked to register their names in a special Bat club registration form. After registration the bat club was named that refers to the place name. Hence it was named as CCINSA's Kovai (short form of Coimbatore) Bat Club. To declare the official formation of the club, the members wrote the club name in a special name board provided by the sponsors.

The best way to identify a member from a non-member is by a badge. All the members were given beautiful badge with the CCINSA and the bat club logo. The group was also divided in to four based on the colour of the badge. (Red, Green, Blue and Yellow). The new members asked what the CCINSA stands for. The coordinator gave the expansion of CCINSA (Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia) and explained about the activities of the network and how the bat specialist in India work to get information about Indian bats and how the networking Institute (ZOO) coordinate the network and use the information gathered from the bat specialists to make education materials that we hold here at the bat club.

After registration and becoming a member the coordinator took pass port size photos of all the members for record and also for use in future activities. Issuing bat passport to all members is the main activity of the first day. The coordinator showed a colourful attractive passport issued by the sponsors and explained about it. Before explaining he ensured that everybody got a copy of the passport. He



Members on the first day

*Co-ordinators, CCINSA Bat Club, Kovai Branch, CBE.





explained all about the passport page by page starting from the logo of the sponsors printed on the front page with a additional information about the institutes and made every body understand how to use the passport. Then they were asked to write their names and fill up the back side of the front cover. He also instructed the members to get a signature from their parents at the front page near the CCINSA seal as a token of agreement by their parents by allowing them to become a club member. He also asked the members to explain to their parents about the club and its objectives and if interested ask the parents to attend one of the meetings.



A member with passport

The coordinator requested the members to inform their t-shirt size at the end of the meeting. After completing all these formalities the members sat down and listened to a story narrated by the organiser with the help of a power point presentation. The story was all about a baby bat called THE ECHO, that tells about the birth of new bat baby and its life history.

The kids interrupted at many stages of the story to clarify their doubts. Later after the story time we planned our next meeting. All members wanted to have it the next week ie 15 August (Independence day). The coordinator asked the members to write a short report about the first day's activity in the passport and bring it in the next meeting. The programme was over by 5.00 pm.

15 August 2004

Second meeting of the Kovai Bat Club

Preparations by the coordinators:

- Prepared a list of all members with their contact info
- Took print out of photographs taken previous meeting.
- Prepared agenda and plan for the second meeting
- Kept all the materials ready to distribute to the members.
- Anticipating new membership, bat club kits were readied
- Greeted and welcomed the members on their arrival.

Agenda

- 3.00 KBC members gathering
- 3.15 Welcome new members and registration/ affix photo in passport or registration form
- 3.30 Appraisal: How members used what they learned
- 3.35 Introduction and all about Bats (fruit and Insect bats)
- 3.50 Issuing bat cards and introducing bat faces and facts
- 4.00 Observing bats in the field. Indoor activity with poster
- 4.25 Questions and answers
- 4.30 Issuing calendar for future programmes
- 4.40 Group photo and end of the second day meeting

As per the interest of the members of the club, the second meeting was convened seven days after the inaugural of the bat club. As expected, 12 out of 14 registered members reached the venue on time. Much before the members reached new members arrived at the venue for registration. The coordinator, to keep the interest of the new member, explained all about the bat club.

The coordinators waited for the members to arrive and the programme started at 3.15 with five new members. The new members registered their names while the existing members were asked to put their photos in the passport and also the registration form.

The coordinator welcomed the members and put the meeting in order. The photos were given to them and they were asked to affix it in their passport as well as in the registration form. Scissors, glue provided by ZOO was utilized. While they were doing pasting work the new members were called out to register their name in the specified form. Mug shorts of the new members were taken for record. The new members were asked to introduce themselves to the club.

It was interesting to note that all the members filled page 5 of the passport with a brief report of the first day meeting. None of the members failed to do it. George drew the logo of CCINSA and also brought a paper cutting to show to other members. The coordinator appreciated his interest in the club and circulated it to the members.

Sharing what they learn in the club with their friends and relatives is one of the main objective of the coordinators. To assess the interest of the members and to understand how the members after learning about bats go back and discuss about this the coordinators asked the members individually what they talked about bats in the last seven days. About 3 members raised their hands and expressed that they told about bat club to their friends. But it is evident from the fact that almost all of them should have talked about this since there is increase in the membership to a considerable level.

The coordinator briefed them about the day's agenda. There was a short discussion on the previous week activities. The feedbacks were collected from them; one of the member named as George did a picture of bat. This shows their involvement towards the club. In this session the information were given to the members about the different types of bat, on what basis it is classified and how it can be identified by the first sight etc. To motivate the members, they were issued the bat cards and questions were asked based on that, this made them to participate actively. By this they were made known how to identify fruit bat and insectivorous bat. Then they were told about the *bons* and *boons* of the bat, and they were made to have a discussion on this. After this the bat posters were issued to them. They were also taught about how to locate a bat and the equipments needed for that. Then they were asked to count the number of bats in the picture. Then bat





club bags were given to keep their belongings. The organizers also issued labels and calendars and the members were very happy to get them. They marked the dates of next meeting in the given calendar. They decided the date to be on 29th of August. The gathering ends well at 5 'O' Clock. All the members were given a chance to express their feelings about their club to the President of CCINSA. All of them received a post card to write how they feel about their bat club. A slide show was shown to members who wanted to stay for some more time.

SPECIAL MEETING – NEW MEMBER INDUCTION. 22 Aug 2004.

This special meeting of the KBC was organized to induct new members. There was an overwhelming attraction developed all in a sudden as a result of the propaganda and report given by the members of KBC to their friends and family circle. The KBC members wanted to bring their friends and kin to register as a member of KBC. One of them brought his dad along with him for registration. It was decided to arrange this special meeting to induct new members in to the club and teach them at one stretch and keep them update to the level of the existing members. About six new members registered their names.



A new member

The programme started exactly at 3 pm with an introduction about the bat club and its objectives. All the new members filled in their registration form and introduced them to the gathering. B.A. Daniel covered all the topics that have been covered so far. The new members received a badge, passport, poster, calender, bag and the bat information card. All activities associated with the materials were repeated for this fresh group of members. The following rules were made known to the new members:

1. Registered members should get their parents agreement in writing* to continue as a member of KBC
2. Members should try and attend all meetings of the club
3. During the club meetings members can clear their doubts or talk with other members but with out disturbing others
4. On account of any misbehaviour by any member at any point of time during KBC meeting time, decision taken by the coordinator will be final and should be strictly obeyed.
5. Members should treat other members as friends and forming groups on any basis unofficially among KBC members is not permitted.
6. Any problem or issue related to the club should be brought to the notice of the coordinator
7. Members should use or distribute KBC's logo, information, materials only for the purpose of spreading the message about bats and its conservation.

*The members were asked to get signature of their parents in the Bat passport New members were requested to attend the next meeting on 29th August.

29th August 2004 -- Third meeting

The meeting started at 2.55 p.m. This time there were nearly 22 members in the club. One of the girl members called Ramya, brought some valuable information on bats and also an article about bat. Master Nixon did a pencil drawing of the of Chester Zoo logo. Master George brought a paper cutting and also a write up about bats. This shows that the members had spent time on collecting those things because they are interested. Then, an activity was conducted to the students with the bat card. They were asked to read the cards for some time and clarify their doubts if they get any while reading. By this, the organizer made the members to get familiarized with some concepts regarding wildlife and some new words. Then a game was conducted based on this. The 'One word-one answer' game this was conducted dividing all the members in to four groups according to the colour of the badge they received.



Members playing word game



ECHOO... the game





ECHOO... the game

Another game called ECHOO was developed by the coordinators and tried with the members that was enjoyed by all. The game ECHOO is based on the theme of echolocation of a bat from its roosting place to feeding place. (See below and try it !)

Everyone enjoyed the game very much and the way they visualized about the bat and their habitat was quite good. Fortunately it was *Rakshabandhan* day and so all the members were asked to tie up a *rakhi*, the specialised bat wrist bracelet included in the bat education packet.

Game: Echolocation

Objective:	To understand how bats Echolocate
Materials Required:	Mask, Kerchief
Number of players:	12 (trees) + 1 (bat)
Time Limit:	15 minutes
Age:	10-15 years

- Form a 13 member group. One among the group will be the bat and the rest represent tall trees in a forest.
- Draw a 10x10 feet square on the floor and all members representing trees should stand randomly within the square with their hands crossed
- Tie the eyes of the bat with a handkerchief and put the insectivorous bat mask.
- All trees should stand still and the game is for the bat to fly from one side of the forest (feeding area) to other side (roosting place) without hitting on the trees.
- The bat should make the sound *kirrichh... kirrichh...* (Ultrasonic sound) and move (fly) forward to the other side of the square (its home) without hitting the trees.
- When the bat moves (fly) forward producing the sound the trees that face the bat have to echo. The bat by locating the direction and volume of the sound should avoid hitting the tree and move to the other side.
- When there is no echo the bat will understand that it is out of the wooded area (square) and it will be out of the game; it doesn't get back to the square within a minute.
- The bat that hits against trees three times will be out of the game. The bat without hitting any tree gets full 30 points. Less 10 points for each hit.
- All 13 players should get a chance and the best collocating bat will be the winner.
- Modify the ground size according to the members

Rules to follow:

The trees should not move and the members should not stretch their hands or legs.

There should be a minimum of two and a half feet distance between trees

Only the tree that faces the bat should give the echo, rest should remain calm. The members representing trees can help each other who should give the echo by sign language, without making noise.

The bat should not see the structure of the forest before the game.





CCINSA Bat Lovers Club, Hyderabad/Secunderabad

Dr. C. Srinivasulu & Bhargavi Srinivasulu*

The CCINSA Bat Lovers' Club was formerly launched on 14th August 2004 at St. Peter's High School, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

We started out by introducing ourselves and the CCINSA and spoke at length about the importance of CCINSA and of the club being a part of the wide network of CCINSA.

Students were made to understand the importance of each animal in this world and how important it is to give back something to mother nature by being responsible, caring and tolerant towards other living things that co-exist with us on this earth. By giving this feedback the team work of CCINSA that is brought over on to these bat clubs such that individuals being a part of the club can collectively help towards the conservation of the bats was stressed upon.

The importance of the Bat Lovers' Club and its members in decision making regarding protecting bats was stressed upon. The various rules and regulations were spelled out to the students and a computerized print out was also handed over to them with regards to the dos and don'ts of the bat club. About 40+ students turned out to attend the first meeting of our Bat Club.

Of these students 22 of them attended the subsequent meeting and were given a brief sketch of bats and their being beleaguered by mankind. The presence of two major kinds of bats namely the fruit eaters and the insect eaters and the subtle differences between the two were highlighted upon through interactive sessions. A game was devised to make them understand the use of echolocation by the insectivorous bats to locate their prey, this was again followed by an interactive session during the course of which the importance of uses of bat detectors was emphasized upon to detect the different ultrasound frequencies emitted by the different species of bats and how the detectors would be useful to know the presence of those species in a given area in a more non-invasive manner. The basics of bat morphology as the size,

the eyesight was shown by means of a game wherein role play was used to make them understand all about bats right from the basic to the complex level.

Preference of different roost sites as cracks and crevices in caves, old temples, old railway tunnels, old buildings used by bats were shown using photographs taken at Golkonda fort in Hyderabad, Borra caves in Visakhapatnam and the old lighthouse in Coringa. Pictures showing fruit bats using trees as roosting sites were also shown and this led to another interesting and boisterous interactive session on their seeing many such roosts in their respective native places.

Besides these activities we took bat education activity in Chintagudem village near Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary in Adilabad district where a roost of Blackbearded tomb bat and Lesser mouse-tailed bat was located. The villagers both men and women including school going and non-school going children listened with interest about the bats and their importance in agroecosystems and vowed to protect bats and educate other villagers about the same.

While interacting with the villagers in vernacular it was felt that an information brochure in the *Telugu* might have been of great use to hit the nail on the head! After having returned from the field area the translation of the My Batty Booklet in *Telugu* was taken up with the help of a Prof. P. Judson, Professor in Zoology of our Department. We intend to produce the local language booklet in collaboration with CCINSA for dissemination of information about bats and their importance to rural mass in Andhra Pradesh.

*** Wildlife Biology Section, Department of Zoology, University College of Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad.**





CCINSA Bat Club of the Bat Assessment Troop (BAT), Assam
Md. Azad Ali and Abdul Hakim Choudhury*



Bat Assessment Troop (BAT), a pioneer CCINSA Bat Club from North Eastern parts of India completed its set of Bat Club meetings recently on 27.04.2004 at BAT Head Office premises.

In the month of January 2004, two different informal meetings were held to choose the right target group within the age of 3-7 years (Kids) and 12-16 years (High School Students). Kids were very much enthusiastic about the programme but they were uncomfortable with the bat agendas. Later we decided to take the second group as BAT was looking for more and more permanent and dependable troop members for future help.



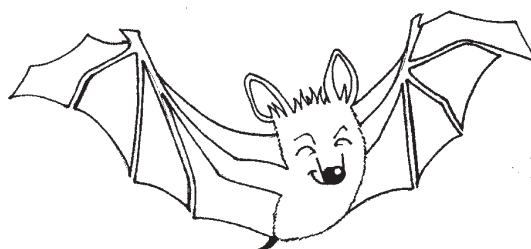
1st batch of Bat Club with the organisers at BAT Head office during CCINSA Bat Club activities

We started the Bat Club with six students from Class X of St. Agastiya High School of Dhubri District, Assam. All are very smart and determined. We organized the first meeting on 1st of February 2004. Then on 8.2.04 followed by 3rd on 7.3.04 and 4th on 21.3.04. We could not organize the 5th meeting and field trips for financial problems of the Club. Finally on 27.4.04 we organized the last meeting with a little ceremony and a short photo session. At the same time we distributed the certificates signed by the CEO of BAT and was kept inside the brown cover supplied by ZOOS.



Bat Club members with the organisers

At the end of the program all the participants pledged and promised to extend their bat knowledge to their friends and family and with a special commitment to help the CCINSA Bat Club in future for their bat conservation related activities.



*** Organisers, CCINSA Bat Club meetings, Bat Assessment Troop (BAT), Dhubri, Assam, India**

